

I will continue to follow events regarding the country's indigenous peoples closely. For the record, I include a copy of the progress report and the letter from the Ambassador with my remarks.

STATE DEPARTMENT VIEWS ON DEVELOPMENTS
IN PERU

Protests by Indigenous groups, led by an umbrella NGO (AIDESEP), began in April against several legislative decrees passed in 2008 they felt would infringe on their rights. While it was not completely clear what portions of the laws were at issue, the indigenous groups main stated concern was that there had been inadequate consultation prior to the passage of the decrees. In mid-May, the Government of Peru initiated a dialogue with AIDESEP's leaders to discuss indigenous concerns. These early talks were slow going and fell apart when AIDESEP walked out on the talks.

The government acted to remove roadblocks near the town of Bagua and restore supplies to affected neighboring communities on June 5. Clashes between police and protestors ensued when police attempted to remove the roadblocks; separately police officers—previously taken hostage at a pumping station—were murdered following news reports of the earlier clashes. Official reports, confirmed by the independent the independent Human Rights Ombudsman's office, put the death toll at 33 (including 10 civilians and 23 police).

The situation on the ground has changed since the violence in early June. The government has reached an agreement with indigenous groups June 15; repealed two laws June 18; and established a multi-sectoral dialogue process. The multi-sectoral commission consists of government, civil society, NGOs and indigenous leaders. With four subgroups looking at the June incidents; concerns on legislative decrees and proposals to replace the repealed decrees; definition of a mechanism for prior consultation in accordance with ILO requirements; and the development of a national proposal for Amazonian development. To date, the commission has met at least three times.

The recent government reshuffle should have no effect on the dialogue, as the incoming Prime Minister has publicly declared support for ongoing dialogue processes.

EMBASSY OF PERU,

Washington DC, September 10th, 2009.

Hon. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. FALEOMAVAEGA: Attached for your information please find a brief progress report on the work of the National Group of Coordination for the Development of Amazon Communities which was created in the aftermath of the unfortunate events that took place in Bagua, Amazon Region of Peru in early June.

Please feel free to contact me in case you need further clarification.

Sincerely yours,

LUIS M. VALDIVIESO,
Ambassador of Peru.

DIALOGUE PROCESS BETWEEN THE AMAZONIAN
COMMUNITIES AND THE GOVERNMENT OF PERU

By Supreme Resolution 0117-2009-PCM issued on June 10th 2009, the Government of Peru created the "National Group of Coordination for the Development of Amazon Communities" (NGCDAC) with the objective of rising a comprehensive sustainable development plan for indigenous peoples in areas such as education, health, titling and the formalization of land, among others. The Government of Peru aims at presenting to the Congress a proposal of National Development Plan for the Amazon by December 26th.

By Supreme Resolution 0211-2009-PCM issued on August 25th 2009, new members of the NGCDAC were added, which includes:

a. Eight (08) Representatives of the Executive Branch (Ministers or their representatives): Ministries of Environment, Energy and Mines; Women and Social Development; Health; Education; Transport and Communications; Housing, Construction and Sanitation. It is chaired by the Ministry of Agriculture that also will be the Technical Secretariat (originally there were only four ministries).

b. Eleven (11) Representatives of Regional Governments: Presidents of the Regional Government of Loreto, Ucayali, Amazonas, San Martín, Madre de Dios, Cuzco, Huánuco, Pasco, Junín, Ayacucho and Cajamarca (originally there were only four regional governments).

c. Representatives of Amazonian indigenous organizations (AIDESEP and CONAP).

This NGCDAC is the core of the dialogue process (known also as the Dialogue Roundtable) and it has four (04) Working Groups. So far, the progresses the four working groups are:

(1) Inquiry Commission on the events in Bagua

On September 2, 2009, seven (07) members of the Inquiry Commission on the events in Bagua (Amazonas) on June 5th 2009, were elected. The working group consists of:

a. Representatives of indigenous communities: Pilar Mazzetti Soler (former Minister of the Interior), Mary Carmen Gómez and Jesús Calleja Manacas Valverde.

b. Representatives of the Executive Branch: Ricardo Alvarez Lobo, Susana Pinilla Cisneros (former Minister for Women and Social Development) and Walter Gutierrez Camacho.

c. Regional governments delegate, Manuel Ernesto Bernalles Alvarado.

The members of this working group will have a meeting with the Ministry of Agriculture no later than September 5th 2009. The Ministry of Agriculture is the chairman of the NGCDAC. The chairman of the working group will be elected among its members. It is expected that this group provides the results of its investigation by December 26th 2009.

(2) Evaluation of Legislative Decrees

This evaluation is being developed under the coordination of the Ministry of Agriculture. The Law on Forestry and Wildlife, and its Bylaw are considered by the working group as reference documents. This group has organized exhibitions and workshops and evaluated many proposals on forestry regulations submitted by each of the parties involved in the dialogue—central government, regional governments and native communities. They will be discussed and then consulted with the indigenous communities.

To contribute to finding consensus on this issue with representatives of regional governments and indigenous communities, on September 2nd 2009, the Bureau for Forestry and Wildlife Affairs of the Ministry of Agriculture submitted to the NGCDAC a document with technical inputs to improve the forestry legislation.

(3) Consultation Mechanisms (in order to accomplish the ILO Convention 169)

This working group is gathering information on the methods of consultation: the Convention 169 itself and its handbook; the United Nations Declaration on Indigenous Peoples Rights; the draft proposal of law in Congress concerning the right of consultation; the report of the Ombudsman on the Bagua issue, and a case review related to the Saramaka population of Suriname.

Regarding this topic, it has been organized the International Seminar "Right of consultation of Indigenous people, policy frame-

work and implementation experiences", as well as decentralized meetings on this issue. Both the Ombudsman and the Sub Regional Office of the ILO have made presentations on the Convention 169. On September 17th this working group will assemble to set up proposals on the matter.

Since the group has started its works, it is taking into consideration the opinions and points of views expressed by Amazonian communities for the purpose of arriving to a draft bill to be submitted to the NGCDAC.

(4) National Development Plan of the Amazon Region

The agenda includes issues relating to indigenous peoples and the Amazon Region, such as:

Land, natural resources and biodiversity.
Identity, culture and human development.
Organization, autonomy and governance.
Economics, management and sustainable development.

So far, this working group has had several meetings and has organized exhibitions, workshops and proposals about this matter.

Since August 29th 2009, this working group is revising and updating of the "Action Plan for Priority Issues of the Special Multisector Commission for Indigenous Communities".

Until September 2nd 2009, this group has worked on these subjects: land property rights and legal stability; bilingual education; increasing of the coverage of public health, and conditions of peace and security for native communities.

Since the installation of NGCDAC, there have been a total of 37 meetings of the four working groups, which were undertaken in an atmosphere of respectful and transparent dialogue.

Within 120 days, the NGCDAC must submit to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, the Comprehensive Plan for Sustainable Development of the Amazonian Peoples.

RAISING A QUESTION OF THE
PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

SPEECH OF

HON. DANIEL B. MAFFEI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 15, 2009

Mr. MAFFEI. Mr. Speaker, It does not promote civility to have a party line vote and spend an afternoon debating whether Mr. WILSON's apology for what he said during the President's address last week is 'good enough.' Clearly, Mr. WILSON thoroughly embarrassed himself. And while I disagree with Mr. WILSON and I strongly support the President, I think we should be moving on and not piling on. As Voltaire wrote, 'I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it.' We all agree Mr. WILSON's behavior was inappropriate, now it is time to get back to work.

HONORING THE DEDICATED
SERVICE OF KIM HARRIS MULLINS

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Kim Harris Mullins for her dedicated service. For more than eighteen years, Kim has committed herself to helping me better serve the residents of Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District.

While Kim is a native of Florida, she grew up in my district in Hartsville, Tennessee. For most of her career with me, she has assisted her neighbors and my constituents with problems they were having with the federal government. One of the most rewarding things I can do as a Member of Congress is help folks at home cut through government red tape, but I wouldn't be able to do that without people like Kim.

As my assistant communications director, Kim has fostered relationships with local media and helped me to stay in touch with Tennessee residents. She is a strong writer and chose to share her expertise by spending her free time teaching journalism and public relations at Middle Tennessee State University, our shared alma mater. Along with providing my office with hardworking interns, some of whom are now full-time members of my staff, Kim's talents and work with the university have earned her a spot on the College of Mass Communication's Wall of Fame.

Kim will be missed dearly, especially by those who worked closest with her in my district offices and benefited daily from her acerbic wit and sense of humor. My Murfreesboro district office is like a family. The current staff has worked together for 11 years, and they have a bond that makes them seem at times to be more like siblings than coworkers. We will be sad to see her go, but we know she has plenty to keep her busy—a new career to undertake, jewelry to make, dogs to spoil, and future trips to the beach with her husband, Jeff.

Kim, thank you for all your help and dedication over these many years. I wish you all the best in your next endeavors.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. ROSCOE G. BARTLETT

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. BARTLETT. Madam Speaker, I submit the following: Funding of \$2,000,000 is necessary to allow completion of the final development stage prior to production. These funds will enable Mack Trucks and Volvo Powertrain, N.A. to finish building a prototype M915 truck with hybrid powertrain and be prepared to compete for an M-915 by the Army. The Army is attempting to extend the service life of heavy trucks, like the M-915, through engineering change programs. This funding supports the Committee directive to the Army to extend their effort for procuring heavy trucks with alternative propulsion systems with parallel electric capability.

ANNIVERSARY OF FOCUS ON RENEWAL

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. DOYLE. Madam Speaker, I rise to observe the 40th anniversary of Focus On Re-

newal, a community service organization serving the municipalities of Stowe Township and McKees Rocks in Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District.

Forty years ago, Father Don Fisher and Sister Paulette Honeygosky laid the foundation for Focus On Renewal. Together, they envisioned an organization made up of individuals who believed that every person must be treated with dignity.

In 1975, Father Regis Ryan assumed the leadership at Focus On Renewal. He was amazed by all the service activities that had been initiated during the first six years of Focus On Renewal. For instance, a pediatric health center had opened in the basement of a storefront at 610 Chartiers Avenue. Within that small facility, lunch was served five days a week; a dental hygienist provided preventive oral care; books were acquired and distributed as a rudimentary library was forming; crisis care needs were addressed on a daily basis; community meetings were called; and one simple, donated van was used to transport elderly folks to medical appointments.

Initially, Father Ryan believed he would remain only a few years, but everyone is glad that didn't happen. Instead, he has become known in the Sto-Rox community as a loving, generous and respectful leader.

What started as a small storefront serving the social service and health needs of the community has become a major non-profit agency. Today, Focus On Renewal operates more than a dozen programs from various sites throughout Allegheny County, providing comprehensive health services, early childhood and adult education programs, transportation services, a library, an arts center, a credit union, employment and training classes, and a broad range of social services.

Countless members of staff, boards, administration and volunteers have spent the last 40 years creating and fostering the community of care into which Focus On Renewal has evolved. Beyond the many human services, which have touched thousands of lives, Focus On Renewal has offered employment to hundreds of men and women, some of whom have served for more than 30 years.

Focus On Renewal is like the weaving of a great patchwork quilt, bits and pieces old and new, held together with common threads, worked by many hands, bordered with love, and blanketing the community with its warmth.

I want to thank Father Ryan and everyone at Focus On Renewal for the important services they have provided the Sto-Rox community over the last 40 years and wish them well as they continue to serve this community in the same exemplary fashion in the coming years.

COMMENDING HONOR FLIGHT SOUTH ALABAMA AND THE 95 WORLD WAR II VETERANS TRAVELING TO THE WWII MEMORIAL

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to com-

mend the Honor Flight South Alabama and the 95 World War II veterans this very special organization is bringing to Washington, D.C. this week.

Founded by the South Alabama Veterans Council, Honor Flight South Alabama is an organization whose mission is to fly heroes from Mobile, Baldwin, Washington, Clarke, Monroe, Covington, and Escambia counties in Alabama to see their national memorial.

Over six decades have passed since the end of World War II and, regrettably, it took nearly this long to complete work on the memorial that honors the spirit and sacrifice of the 16 million who served in the U.S. armed forces and the more than 400,000 who died. Sadly, many veterans did not live long enough to hear their country say "thank you" yet, for those veterans still living, Honor Flight provides for many their first—and perhaps only—opportunity to see the National World War II Memorial, which honors their service and sacrifice.

Madam Speaker, this week's journey of 95 heroes from south Alabama is an appropriate time for us to pause and thank them—and all of the soldiers who fought in World War II—for they collectively—and literally—saved the world. They personify the very best America has to offer, and I urge my colleagues to take a moment to pay tribute to their selfless devotion to our country and the freedom we enjoy.

I salute each of the 95 veterans who made the trip this week. May we never forget their valiant deeds and tremendous sacrifices.

James Abbot Jr., John Abbott, Lewis Abronski, Stanley Armit, Eugene Baril, Herbert Baskin, Joseph Bell Jr., William Bittner, John Blackmon, Elizabeth Blatchford, Edward Borman, Henry Brackin, James Bryars, John Busbee, Charles Byrd, Donald Carmichael, Charles Carpenter, Hurschel Chambers Jr. and David Chichester.

George Coaker, Robert Constatine Jr., Marvin Courtney, James Coward, Thomas Culpepper, John Douglas, George Edgar, Edwin Fore Jr., Howard Foshee, Glenn Frazier, Lloyd Fremaux, Roland Fry, Richard Gile, Douglas Gordon, Henry Hannett, Joseph Harbuck Jr., James Helland, Jennings Hill and Cecil Hobbs.

William Hobbs Jr., Jean Hooker, Elsie Hovell, Edward Hrsin, John Hudson, Christopher Hume Jr., Ray Huning, Meldon Hurlbert, Clifford James, James Johnson, George Jones, John Kassab, Frank Keeler Jr., Paul Liles, Horace Luckey, Thomas Martin, Robert Mauer and Floyd McBride.

Joseph McCoy, Cecil McLain, Robert Meador, James Mills, John Moreland Jr., Granvil Neel, James Nickerson, Melvin O'Barr, Lee Otts, Billy Owen, Wilbern Payne, Sidney Phillips Jr., James Philpot, Edward Plouse, Donald Pruett, Iona Quinley, John Rabon, Edward Reagan and John Reiter.

Leon Resmondo, Gary Roberts, Claude Robinson, Hans Schneider, Charles Skinner, Randolph Smith, Raymond Smith, Robert Smith, Arnold Smith, John Stauffer, Charles Strawser, William Stuckey, Ezra Trice, Julius Turner, James White, John Jephtha White-Spunner, Ezell Williams, Chelton Wilson and Janet Woods,